

Proposed CMA

Constitutional Amendments

FOR ACTION IN 1973

Six Constitutional amendments were introduced in the 1972 House of Delegates. Under the terms of the Constitution, these amendments must lie on the table until the next regular meeting of the House of Delegates.

These proposed amendments are shown here for the information of the membership. In addition, the proposed Constitutional amendments are required to be printed in two issues of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE before they come before the House of Delegates for action.

ARTICLE II, SECTION 1—CLASSES OF MEMBERS Constitutional Amendment 1-72 Committee G

Introduced by: Paul Scholten, M.D.

WHEREAS, "free choice" is a prime tenet of the medical profession; and

WHEREAS, "required membership" is directly contrary to this prime tenet; and

WHEREAS, the recent poll conducted by the CMA as well as referendums by component medical societies indicated the desire of a substantial group of physicians to exercise their "free choice"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Constitution of the CMA be amended to include the classification of Independent Member. Such member would pay full dues to his component medical society and receive full benefits therefrom; such member *may* join the CMA by paying full dues, from which he would receive full benefits; and, be it further

Resolved: That Article II, Section 1, be amended by adding the word in italics: "The members of this Association shall consist of Active, Associate, *Independent*, Honorary, Retired, Life and Affiliate members."

ACTION: Tabled for one year. To be acted upon at the 1973 meeting of the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 3—VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP IN CMA AND AMA BY A MEMBER OF A COMPONENT COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Constitutional Amendment 2-72 Committee G

Introduced by: James W. Goettle, M.D.

Representing: Tulare County Medical Society

WHEREAS, the present bylaws of the CMA make membership in the AMA and CMA compulsory to all members of a component county medical society; and

WHEREAS, the medical profession has always vigorously defended the concept of "freedom of choice" in health care, but will not give this freedom of choice to its members as numerous other states now do; and

WHEREAS, freedom of choice has always been beneficial to professional people in the long run, for it makes the leaders of such organizations more responsive to members' desires as the history of our country has so demonstrated to the world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the CMA Constitution be amended to read as follows: (Article I, Section 3) members of local county medical societies in the State of California have the freedom to decide individually whether they wish to join the CMA or AMA, singly or in combination.

ACTION: Tabled for one year. To be acted upon at the 1973 meeting of the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 3—PROPOSED CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PERMITTING VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP IN CMA AND AMA BY A MEMBER OF A COMPONENT COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Constitutional Amendment 3-72 Committee G

Introduced by: Allan K. Briney, M.D.

Representing: Los Angeles County

WHEREAS, the present Bylaws of the California Medical Association make membership in the

California Medical Association and the American Medical Association compulsory to all members of a component county medical society; and

WHEREAS, we, as a profession, vigorously defend the principle of "freedom of choice" in health care, yet deny individual members of county medical societies the freedom of deciding whether or not they wish to belong to the California Medical Association or American Medical Association; and

WHEREAS, each physician is quite capable of deciding whether there are sufficient advantages or insufficient advantages to maintaining membership in all three organizations; and

WHEREAS, mandatory membership in one organization (CMA and AMA) in order to maintain membership in another (local medical society) significantly interferes with the privilege of setting priorities as to organizational commitments, such as belonging to specialty societies; and

WHEREAS, in forty states a local county medical association member may decide for himself whether he also wishes to maintain membership in the state and national medical associations; e.g., New York and Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, professional liability insurance carriers have no requirements about California Medical Association or American Medical Association membership for coverage of a county medical society member; and

WHEREAS, in a free and democratic society it would seem reasonable and consistent that membership in all medical societies should be voluntary, with each society attracting members on its own merits; and

WHEREAS, when a local county medical association collects dues for a state and national medical association, the individual dues-payer tends to lump all these dues together as "county medical society dues", feeling he may not be "getting his money's worth"; and

WHEREAS, there is widespread feeling among local county medical association members that the CMA and AMA have long ago lost their "grass roots" contact and cannot speak authoritatively for the medical profession; and

WHEREAS, recent polls of the Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and San Francisco County Medical Associations have overwhelmingly favored voluntary membership by an average of four to one, as opposed to compulsory membership; and

WHEREAS, a national poll by *Medical Opinion* magazine, published in November, 1971, showed

82% favoring voluntary membership in the American Medical Association; and

WHEREAS, results of the recent CMA opinion poll are inconclusive and misleading, due to substitution of the words *involuntary* and *compulsory* specified in Bylaws Amendment 22-71 authorizing the poll, by the words *separate* and *unified*; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That Article I, Section 3, be amended as follows:

This Association is an organization composed of the component societies and their members who are members of this Association, the House of Delegates, the Council, the Scientific Board, the Scientific Assembly, Bureaus, Commissions and Standing Committees.

ACTION: Tabled for one year. To be acted upon at the 1973 meeting of the House of Delegates.

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**ARTICLE III, PART A, SECTION 1(d)—VOTING
PRIVILEGES FOR SCIENTIFIC BOARD
REPRESENTATIVES IN THE HOUSE OF
DELEGATES**

Constitutional Amendment 4-72 Committee G

Introduced by: Council

Resolved: That Article III, Part A, Section 1 (d)—House of Delegates composition shall be amended by deleting the words in brackets and adding the words in italics, so that this Subsection shall now read:

"(d) Ex officio, [without] *with* the right to vote, [eighteen (18)] *twenty-one (21)* members of the Scientific Board selected as provided in the Bylaws; and . . ."

ACTION: Tabled for one year. To be acted upon at the 1973 meeting of the House of Delegates.

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**DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO AMA
SHALL BE EX OFFICIO DELEGATES OF CMA**

Constitutional Amendment 5-72 Committee G

Introduced by: Lawrence E. Reck, M.D.
Representing: 1st District

Resolved: That Article III, Part A, Section 1, be amended by adding a new sub-section (f) which reads as follows:

(f) *Ex officio, without the right to vote, the officers, the delegates and alternate delegates to the American Medical Association, who are not otherwise members of the House of Delegates of this Association.*

ACTION: Adopted above substitute Constitutional Amendment No. 5-72 as substitute for Resolution No. 62-72. Tabled for one year. To be acted upon at the 1973 House of Delegates.

ARTICLE III—GOVERNMENT OF THE
ASSOCIATION
PART A—HOUSE OF DELEGATES—COMPOSITION
SECTIONS 1, 2, 4

Constitutional Amendment 6-72 Committee G

Introduced by: E. Kash Rose, M.D.

Resolved: That Article III, Part A, Section 1, be amended by adding a new sub-section (g) which reads as follows: (g) *Delegates elected by duly enrolled medical students in good standing at accredited schools of medicine in California;* and, be it further

Resolved: That Article III, Part A, Section 2, be amended by adding the words in italics, to read as follows:

As the Bylaws shall further provide, the duly enrolled medical students in good standing at each accredited school of medicine located in California shall be entitled to elect one delegate from each such school; and, be it further

Resolved: That Article III, Part A, Section 4, be amended by adding the words in italics, to read as follows:

Delegates and alternates elected from each school of medicine shall serve for a term of one year.

ACTION: *Tabled for one year. To be acted upon at the 1973 meeting of the House of Delegates.*

SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS

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California Medical Association

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